

REMARKS

The Applicant is most grateful for the Examiner's careful and thorough consideration of the previous amendments.

The Applicant is also appreciative of the Examiner's assessment of the Applicant's wording of the claims, and, in particular, for pointing out from *Re Van Geuns*: "limitations are not to be read into the claims from the specification." (988 F2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993, at 14).

Claims 61-73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calfee (US 3,755,059) in view of Hollis, Sr. (US 3,969,563). In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 61 to further differentiate the present invention from the prior art. Claim 61 now expressly defines the limitations that are being applied to the present invention's "dissipating element".

To ensure the Examiner's appreciation of the type of 'expanded mesh' that is being envisaged to be used as "dissipating element(s)" by the present invention, the Applicant respectfully provides an explanation of this term and structure(s) to which it applies:

Expanded mesh

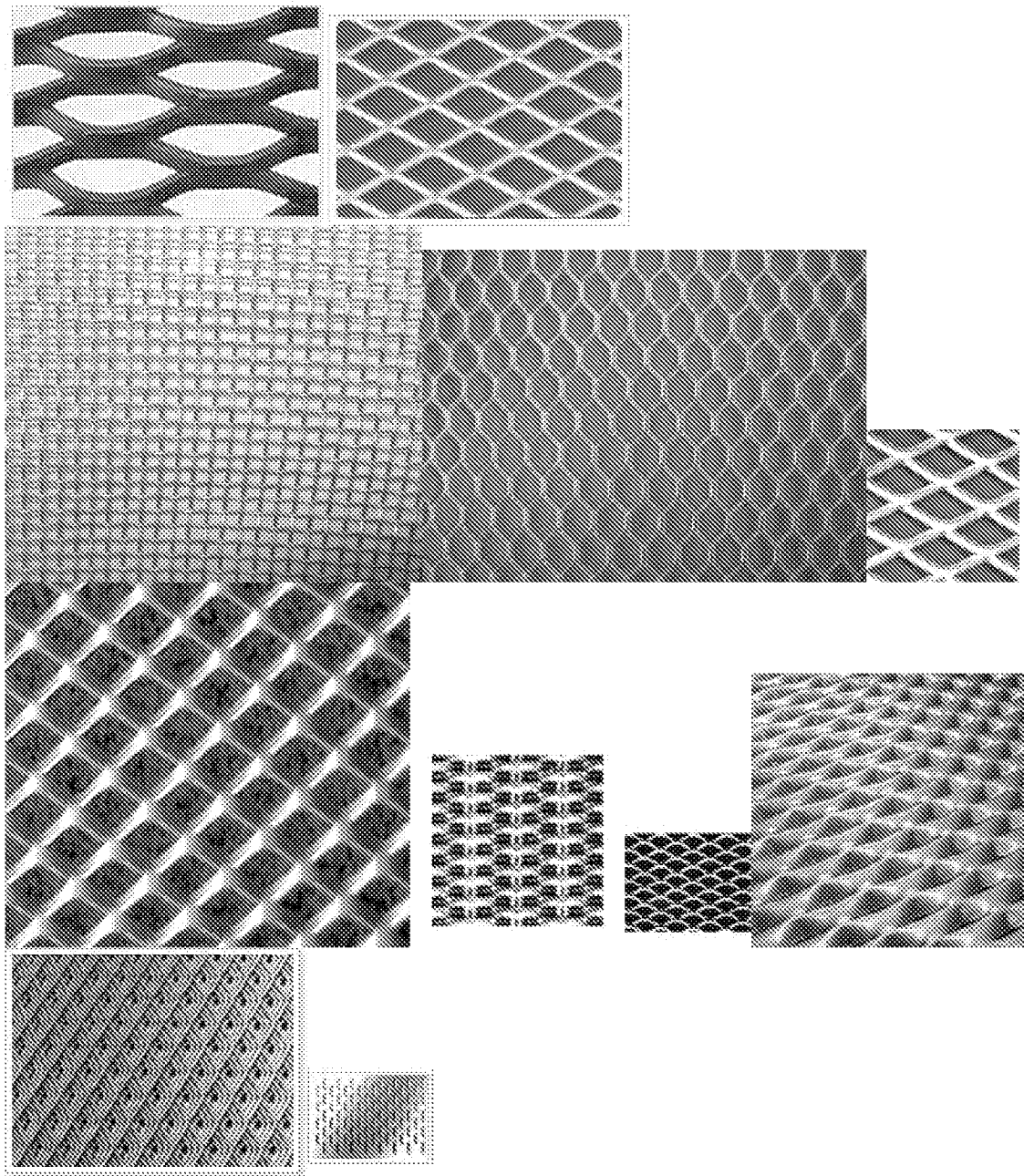
The Examiner is respectfully being reminded that the dissipating element in the present invention could be made out of materials other than metals as 'expanded mesh'. The dissipating element could be expanded mesh made out of natural fibres, non-metal, natural and non-natural materials.

Expanded **metal** mesh is achieved when a continuous single sheet of metal, a flat metal plate, is cut and stretched – resulting in apertures (openings) – while left connected at specific points, the so-called 'knuckles'. Expanded meshes can be of a variety of thicknesses with differing sizes and designs of the apertures.

The strands and knuckles are set at a uniform angle to the plane of the sheet, which results in added strength and provides a level of rigidity to the mesh, while distributing the load to the surrounding structures with which the mesh is combined, namely the surrounding inner plies in the laminate designed according to the present invention.

A dissipating element could also be a woven mesh (plain, twill or satin weave).

EXAMPLES OF EXPANDED and WOVEN METAL MESH:



With the submitted amendments being fully responsive to all outstanding objections and formal requirements, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner feel that there are further issues which may be resolved by means of telephone interview, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned.

The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enters these amendments and considers and accepts the remarks / arguments as presented in this paper. No new matter has been entered.

A petition for any and all extensions of time is hereby made. Please charge all fees due and owing to Deposit Account 500356 in the name of A + Legal Services – Greenberg & Lieberman.

Respectfully submitted,

/mlg/

Michael L. Greenberg, Esq.

Reg. no. 47312